IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 6 and 9 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please amend claims 1, 4 and 7 as follows:

LISTING OF CURRENT CLAIMS

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) An optical image retrieval method for detecting an optical image signal reflected from an image contacting surface under a transparent medium, the method comprising steps as follows:

generating a light projected in a vertical direction;

directing the light to ~~a light-splitter unit;~~ an optical device;

~~splitting~~ transmitting the light ~~with the light-splitter unit and~~ through the optical device and directing a transmitted light passing through the ~~light-splitter unit~~ optical device to the image contacting surface under the transparent medium for producing the optical image signal;

reflecting the optical image signal to the ~~light-splitter unit~~ optical device along an image retrieval optical axis, wherein the image retrieval optical axis overlaps with an optical axis of the transmitted light; and

reflecting the optical image signals returned from the image contacting surface to a lens once or more with the ~~light-splitter unit,~~ optical device, the lens focusing the optical image signals to an image detecting element.

Claim 2. (Original) The optical image retrieval method as in claim 1, wherein the transparent medium is glass.

Claim 3. (Original) The optical image retrieval method as in claim 1, wherein images are also retrieved on a non-transparent medium.

Claim 4. (Currently Amended) An optical image retrieval method, providing:
generating a light and projecting the light in a vertical direction;
directing the light to ~~a light-splitter unit;~~ an optical device;
directing the light reflected by the ~~light-splitter unit once or more~~ optical device at least once to an image contacting surface under a transparent medium;
reflecting optical image signals to the ~~light-splitter unit,~~ optical device, wherein an image retrieval optical axis overlaps with an optical axis of light reflected by the ~~light-splitter unit;~~ optical device; and
transmitting the optical image signals returned from the image contacting surface to a lens by the ~~light-splitter unit,~~ optical device, wherein the lens focuses the optical image signals onto an image detecting ~~element.~~ element,
wherein images are also retrieved on a non-transparent medium.

Claim 5. (Original) The optical image retrieval method as in claim 4, wherein the transparent medium is glass.

Claim 6. (Canceled)

Claim 7. (Currently amended) An optical image retrieval method, providing:
generating a light and projecting the light in a horizontal direction;
directing the light to ~~a light-splitter;~~ an optical device;
directing light reflected by the ~~light-splitter~~ optical device to an image contacting surface under a transparent medium;
reflecting optical image signals onto the ~~light-splitter unit,~~ optical device, wherein an image retrieval optical axis overlaps with an optical axis of light reflected by the ~~light-splitter;~~ optical device;
transmitting optical image signals returned from the image contacting surface to a lens by the ~~light-splitter,~~ optical device, wherein the lens will focus the optical image signals onto an image detecting ~~element.~~ element,
wherein images are also retrieved on a non-transparent medium.

Claim 8. (Original) The optical image retrieval method as in claim 7, wherein the transparent medium is glass.

Claim 9. (Canceled)

Claim 10. (Original) An optical image retrieval method, providing:

generating a light and projecting the light in a horizontal direction;

directing the light to a lens unit;

directing the light reflected by the lens unit twice to an image contacting surface under a transparent medium;

reflecting optical image signals to the lens unit, wherein an image retrieval optical axis overlaps with the optical axis of the light reflected twice by the lens unit;

transmitting light returned from the image contacting surface to a lens by the lens unit, wherein the lens focuses the light onto an image detecting element.

Claim 11. (Original) The optical image retrieval method as in claim 10, wherein the transparent medium is glass.

Claim 12. (Original) The optical image retrieval method as in claim 10, wherein images are also retrieved on a non-transparent medium.